

News Release



For Immediate Release

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Swimming Beach Closed for the Day at Silverwood Lake State Park

SILVERWOOD LAKE SRA – California State Parks has closed Sawpit Beach for swimming and wading due to an electrical equipment failure in a sewage lift station serving the park. The sewage system backed up and only about 50 -100 gallons escaped through a shower drain into a nearby storm drain that empties into the lake. The sewage water was contained in storm drain where it was treated. It is doubtful that the contaminated water ever made it to the open water of the lake at Sawpit beach. Tests should be completed by tomorrow to confirm that the swimming beach is not affected. Swimming, boating, camping and other park activities are unaffected.

“The Silverwood Lake Park staff took quick action to minimize the movement of the contaminated water,” said State Parks’ District Superintendent Gary Watts. An electrical breaker melted and caused the system to shut down which activated an alarm. State park staff arrived minutes later and started assessing the problem. Sewage water then backed out of an outside beach shower drain. The water was contained and treated within 15 minutes. The repairs should be completed by the end of the day today. Portable restrooms were set up while a couple of beach restrooms were closed until the repairs are completed.

However, State Parks said the public needs to understand that the beach area was closed to swimming as a precaution. Water samples are being analyzed today to confirm that there has been no mixing of the sewage water with the open water of the lake. “We believe that the storm drain acted as an enclosure to contain the sewage in which it was treated,” said Watts. The Cleghorn beach and day use area are open for swimming and lifeguards are on duty. The rest of the park, including the campground and Sawpit picnic areas and the Black Oak day use areas are fully open.

State Parks expects to have the Sawpit beach area open by Saturday morning for swimming.

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